

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-20 NSC-10 L-03 H-03 AGR-20 STR-08

AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 EA-11 FRB-02

INR-10 IO-14 NEA-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 OPIC-12 SPC-03

TRSE-00 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 PA-04 PRS-01

USIA-15 TAR-02 DRC-01 /219 W
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R 261840Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5702

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS UNN

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 32811

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EGEN FR

SUBJECT: VIEWS OF FRENCH OFFICIAL ON TNC PROBLEM

REF: PARIS 32810

1. IN THE CONVERSATION WITH BERNARD, DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE ELYSEE, REPORTED REFTEL, ECON/COM MIN EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT SOME WAY COULD BE FOUND OUT OF THE IMPASSE CAUSED BY DISAGREEMENT BETWEEN THE U.S. AND THE EC ON THE PROBLEM OF THE AGRICULTURE SUB-GROUP OF THE TNC. BERNARD, WHO CORDINATES FRENCH POLICY ON SUCH MATTERS IN HIS CAPACITY AS SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE INTER-EUROPEAN COMMITTEE
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ON ECONOMIC COOPERATION, SAID HE AGREED THAT THE PROBLEM

SHOULD BE CLEARED UP BT HE DIDN'T THINK THERE WAS ANY GREAT HURRY.

2. ECON/COM MIN SAID HE COULD NOT AGREE WITH THIS. HE SAID THE U.S. ENVISAGED THREE STAGES OF NEGOTIATIONS: THE FIRST STAGE FROM NOW UNTIL SIGNING OF THE TRADE BILL, DURING WHICH ESSENTIAL PREPARATORY WORK COULD BE DONE: THE SECOND STAGE, DURING THE SIX MONTHS PERIOD REQUIRED FOR TARIFF COMMISSION CONSIDERATION OF THE BILL, DURING WHICH IMPORTANT DECISIONS SUCH AS THE FORMULA TO BE USED IN CARRYING OUT REDUCTIONS IN INDUSTRIAL TARIFFS COULD BE TAKEN AND NEGOTIATIONS ON NTB'S COULD BE CARRIED ON; AND THE FINA STAGE, IN WHICH ACTUAL OFFERS WOULD BE TABLED. IN ORDER TO AVOID LOSS OF MOMENTUM AND THE UNFAVORABLE PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECT THIS MIGHT HAVE, IT WAS IMPORTANT TO GET THE FIRST STAGE MOVING AS QUIKLY AS POSSIBLE.

3. BERNARD SAID HE WAS GRATEFUL FOR THIS VIEW OF THE MATTER. HE EXPECTED TO BE TALKING SOON TO FINANCE MINISTER GISCARD AND FOREIGN MINISTER JOBERT, THE TWO RESPNSIBLE MINISTERS, ABOUT THE TNC PROBLEM AND HE PROMISED THAT HE WOULD MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO TRY TO UNBLOCK THE IMPASSE. STONE

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